

EFFORT TO SLAY  
STATE'S COUNSELStranger Makes Attempt on  
Night Riders' Prosecutor.

## SHOT MISSES ITS MARK

Newspaper Man Fires on the  
Would-be Assassin.

Woman Witness Retracts Statement  
She Made and Declares She Was  
Told to Testify Falsely on Her  
Husband, one of Accused, Would  
Be Hanged—Grand Jury Presents  
Its Final Report to Judge Jones.

Union City, Jan. 2.—The city was  
startled to-night by an attempt made by a  
stranger man to assassinate Attorney Gen-  
eral D. J. Caldwell, chief counsel for the  
State in the prosecution of the night  
rider cases. The would-be assassin made  
his escape, but officers and members of  
the State guard are making diligent  
search for the miscreant, and it is hoped  
that his capture will soon be effected.

Mr. Caldwell was on his way home  
about 9 o'clock when a man who was  
hidden in the dark fired once at him, but  
without effect.

A well-known newspaper man of Union  
City, who was not far from Mr. Caldwell,  
immediately opened fire upon the stranger,  
but missed his mark. Mr. Caldwell pro-  
ceeded to his home, and Sheriff Edster-  
wood was at once notified. The military  
authorities sent a detachment of soldiers  
in search of the assailant, and to-night a  
systematic lookout is being kept for sus-  
picious characters.

## Morris Returns to Jail.

Guarded by Sheriff C. A. Brasfield, of  
Weakley County, walking between two  
files of soldiers, Wad Morris, one of  
the State's most important witnesses in  
the night rider case, accompanied by his  
wife, left here this afternoon for Dres-  
den, where Morris goes back to jail, but  
is likely to be released.

Morris made a confession at Camp  
Nemo, acknowledging that he was a  
member of the night riders and that he  
had participated in a number of raids  
made by the outlaws, but denied that he  
was present at the murder or had taken  
any part therein.

Morris told the same story on the wit-  
ness stand during the early part of the  
trial, and in consequence thereof threats  
of vengeance were made by friends of  
the men accused.

When the defense called Mrs. Morris  
as a witness yesterday she swore that on  
the night of October 19 her husband was  
at home, and that they knew nothing of  
the assassination until the day following.

This contradiction of her husband's state-  
ment created quite a surprise. To-day  
Attorney General Caldwell arose and  
asked that Mrs. Morris be recalled at  
her own request.

Reverses Her Story.  
On taking the stand she was told by  
counsel for the State to tell the jury in  
her own way what she desired to say.

Mrs. Morris then said in trembling ac-  
cents that the story she related previous-  
ly was false. The witness said that when  
she swore that her husband was at home  
the night she believed it was right to do  
so, but her conscience now required her  
to tell the truth.

Mrs. Morris said, in explanation of why  
she had sworn to her husband being at  
home on the night of October 19, that  
Joe Hogg and Jack Long had visited her  
several times while she was stopping with  
a relative at the Lake, and also while  
in Union City, and told her that if she  
testified otherwise her husband would be  
hanged.

A thorough cross-examination by coun-  
sel for the defense failed to change her  
testimony.

This afternoon the defense rested and  
the State began the introduction of evi-  
dence in rebuttal.

This afternoon the special grand jury  
presented its final report to Judge Jones.

The grand jury returned four indict-  
ments, embracing twenty-two men, and  
charging conspiracy and night riding.

The work of the grand jury began on  
December 7, and up to to-day the indict-  
ments brought in in the night rider cases  
number about ninety, and nearly 150 men  
are involved.

LEGACY LEFT BY KING.  
Romantic Story of Aid to Poor  
Family in London.

London, Jan. 2.—The romantic story of  
a legacy left by Charles II was told to-  
day. When fleeing from the battle of  
Worcester in 1651, Charles, as is well  
known, was assisted to a hiding place in  
an oak tree by Farmer Richard Penderel.  
Charles granted the farmer's family six  
perpetual legacies—two of £100 a year  
and four of £1 a week.

Nine years ago a London fruit porter,  
Richard Penderel, died, leaving a four-  
year-old daughter unprovided for. His  
sister, wife of a London cabman named  
Cassin, took the child into her own fam-  
ily, for which it was difficult enough to  
provide. The cabman's wife had heard  
something of Charles's legacy as a sort  
of family myth, but had never regarded it  
seriously.

Pressed by hard times, on seeing a re-  
ference to the Penderel legacy in a news-  
paper, she began to make inquiries.  
Eventually she was amazed to find that  
her niece was entitled to £1 a week for  
life, while an accumulation of £200 was  
awaiting her. The trustees of the legacy  
were made her niece's guardians, and  
they handed over the £200 to her.

## WEATHER FORECAST.

For the District of Columbia,  
Maryland, and Virginia—Fair  
and warmer to-day; to-morrow  
probably fair, with moderate tem-  
perature; southerly winds.

## HERALD NEWS SUMMARY.

Pages. TELEGRAPHIC.  
1—Tries to Kill Night Riders' Prosecutor.  
1—Mrs. Erb Recites Stories of Abuse.  
1—Burton Named by Ohio Caucus.  
1—Italy Wars Against Pestilence.  
1—Taft Speaks on the South.  
4—Stories of Earthquake Refugees.  
10—Justice Wants Hains Case Rushed.  
10—China Dismisses Grand Councilor.

## LOCAL.

2—Money Needed to Clean Streets.  
2—Dr. W. L. White Passes Away.  
4—Congress to Aid Quake Victims.  
10—Italians Hold Mass Meeting To-day.  
12—More Teachers Needed in Country.

BURTON IS NAMED  
BY OHIO CAUCUSWill Be Formally Elected  
Senator on January 12.

## ADDRESSES THE LEGISLATORS

Republicans of Buckeye Legislature  
Meet During Afternoon and Former  
Representative in Congress Is on  
Hand to Enjoy His Triumph.  
Pledges Self for Party Harmony.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 2.—Theodore E.  
Burton, of Cuyahoga County, former  
leader of the House of Representatives  
and chairman of its Committee on Rivers  
and Harbors, is to-night virtually Sena-  
tor-elect from Ohio, the successor of  
Joseph Benson Foraker.

This is the result of the caucus of  
the members of the State senate and  
house, who constitute the Republican  
majorities of these bodies, which was  
held this afternoon.

There will be no other Republican can-  
didate suggested.

The formal election will be held Janu-  
ary 12 at noon, but every member of the  
majority entered the caucus and is  
pledged to abide by the decision.

Burton was present to enjoy his tri-  
umph. He remained at his hotel until  
sent for to address the members of the  
general assembly. He pledged himself  
to work for party harmony, and then  
made a fervid appeal to the members  
of the legislature to stand firm and con-  
sider all matters of vital interest that  
have the support of the people of Ohio.

## EARLY HOUR BLAZE

"The Fair" and King's Pal-  
ace Are Damaged.

## FIREMEN DO GOOD WORK

Exact Figures of Damages Not Ob-  
tainable—Several Companies, the  
Water Tower, and Other Apparatus  
Extinguish the Flames—Save Build-  
ings from Destruction.

Fire which started in Schmitz's  
variety store, known as "The Fair,"  
at 818 Seventh street, at 3:15  
o'clock, resulted in heavy damage.

The store, which is in a three-  
story brick building owned by Mr.  
Schmitz, caught fire in the rear.  
Two alarms were sounded and several  
companies of firemen, the water  
tower, and other apparatus respond-  
ed. The firemen had difficulty in  
checking the flames, which had  
gained good headway before they  
arrived.

They directed their efforts to ex-  
tinguishing the flames on the sec-  
ond and third floors, and were suc-  
cessful after a half hour's work.

The flames spread to King's  
Palace, next door, but the fire in  
that establishment was quickly con-  
quered.

At 3:40 o'clock the flames in  
both buildings were under control.  
The first floor of "The Fair" was  
not reached by the flames, but much  
damage resulted to stock, which  
consists of toys, cooking utensils,  
and household supplies in general.  
It is estimated the loss to "The  
Fair" will be about \$2,000.

The King's Palace, which is a  
well-known millinery store, was  
damaged by water and smoke, but  
the exact figures were not obtain-  
able.

Report of Wedding Denied.  
Special to The Washington Herald.  
Duffields, Va., Jan. 2.—The report  
sent out from Harpers Ferry that War-  
ren Hunter was married at Duffields  
on Thursday to Miss Lizzie Osburn is  
debased and the report is branded as untrue.  
No such marriage, it is stated here,  
has occurred.

Baltimore and Return, \$1.25.  
Baltimore & Ohio R. R.  
Every Saturday and Sunday. All trains,  
both ways, both days, except Royal Lim-  
ited. City offices, 1417 G st. and 619 Pa. ave.

Seaboard Florida Limited.  
Handsome and quickest train in Flor-  
ida service. Solid Pullman, electric-light-  
ed throughout. Will commence running  
January 4. Office, 1421 Pa. ave.

MRS. ERB RECITES  
STORIES OF ABUSETestimony Carries Sense of  
Horror that Appeals.

## DOES NOT SPARE SELF

Tells How Captain Beat Her and  
How She Fought Back.

Widow of Murdered Man Describes  
Life at Red Gables, and When She  
Tells of the Slaying and Terrible  
Struggles that Preceded It, There  
Is Not a Dry Eye in Court-room,  
Witness Almost Breaks Down.

Media, Pa., Jan. 2.—Never before in the  
history of a Pennsylvania court has there  
been recited a tale of abuse of women by  
men such as was told on the witness  
stand here to-day by Mrs. M. Florence  
Erb, widow of Capt. J. Clayton Erb, in  
her own defense for her husband's murder.

It was a tale of brutality that has sel-  
dom been paralleled, even in fiction. And  
it was driven home by the very manner of  
the woman herself as she sat, shrink-  
ingly responding to the interrogations of her  
leading counsel, W. Cloud Alexander,  
telling the things that could best be ex-  
pected to influence the jury, while at the  
same time skimming lightly over those  
that might prejudice. Yet she did not  
spare herself.

"I threw a cuspidor at my husband's  
head," she declared, "and a vase thrown  
by me shattered on his face, but he had  
been beating me and I was in fear of my  
own life."

Mrs. Erb scored heavily in the defense  
of herself and her sister, Mrs. Beisel, in  
dictated jointly for the murder of the man  
who was in life the intimate friend and  
confidant of the members of the Quaker  
City Republican political machine. Her  
narrative carried a sense of horror that  
cannot have failed to impress the jury.

## Told Jury Her Story.

She was very pale, and her peculiar  
style of beauty was well set off by the  
mourning garb she wore. She related  
to the jury circumstantial events of  
many alleged assaults upon her, of beat-  
ings with canes, articles of furniture,  
and bare fists, and culminated the entire  
story with an account of a night of hor-  
ror, when, according to her, she lay  
half fainting on a couch while the man  
who had made her his wife threatened  
to kill her. From the instant that she went  
to Red Gables, she swore, the captain  
subjected her to indignities of the most  
brutal kind.

"He wanted to get rid of me," she  
plaintively said, "and when I would not  
consent to a divorce he treated me as  
though I was not human."

"When he drove me out of the house  
and I took refuge from his brutalities  
in the cupola he came up and dragged  
me down the stairs by the hair on my  
head."

Friends of Capt. Erb to-night declare  
that the widow's story is untrue. They  
declare that none of the scenes she de-  
scribed could actually have happened,  
and insist that her tale was devised for  
jury consumption. On the other hand,  
the defense promises to have every word  
of it corroborated by her brother, her  
sister, and the servants of the Erb house-  
hold.

## Afraid to Face Mother.

Mrs. Erb admitted that she had lived  
with Capt. Erb at Red Gables from May,  
1896, until November, 1907.

"But I stayed at Red Gables and I  
married Mr. Erb, because I was ashamed  
to leave him," she protested in a sob-  
bing voice. "I could not face my mother  
and admit my disgrace. He had told the  
world that I was his wife, he had told  
his sisters and all his friends that he  
had married me and so I stood his cruelty  
and abuse."

But the most dramatic story of the day  
was the recital of the events that im-  
mediately followed the shooting. She had  
told how Erb had beaten and abused  
her on the night of the shooting.

Seemingly unmoved mentally, although  
her slight figure was occasionally shaken  
by sobs, she had recited the early events  
of the tragic night when she had been  
beaten by Erb, run away from him in  
terror after she had beaten him in a  
frantic struggle with the electric hand  
light, thrown the cuspidor at his head,  
broken a vase filled with flowers in his  
face, and told of his final struggle with  
her sister while the revolver was in his  
hand. But when the lawyer asked her  
about the events that followed the shoot-  
ing she lost all of her self-control.

## A Dramatic Moment.

"I saw his face the instant I came out  
of the door," she sobbed, "and it was  
not until that instant that I realized that  
he had been hurt. It was awful, awful,  
and I—Here speech left her, and she  
seemed about to fall from the oaken  
chair in which she was sitting. There  
was not a dry eye in the courtroom, but  
the witness, seeming to realize that every  
effort was necessary, rallied her falling  
nerves, pushed herself backward into  
the chair, and, through eyes deeply  
inflamed with emotion, stared at her  
lawyer, her white-haired mother and her  
now sympathetic, weeping sister, con-  
jointly in the shadow of the gallows with  
her, and continued:

"But I did not then realize just what  
had happened. I did not know that he  
was dead or dying. I just ran down  
stairs to get help."

She told of bringing the maid up stairs  
with her, of calling in vain for a doctor  
over the telephone, of seeing her sister  
lying in such a faint that she thought  
her dead, and of trying to revive her.  
Prosecutor McDade conducted the cross-  
examination. Going into the early his-

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Evening Train to North and West  
to Leave at 7 p. m.  
On January 4 Pennsylvania Railroad  
train heretofore leaving Washington at  
7:05 p. m. for Buffalo and the North-  
west, Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland,  
Cincinnati and the West will be changed  
to leave Union Station at 7 p. m. daily.

Special Centerpieces for the New Year's  
Dinner and reception, 41 W. Blackstone.



## SPEAKS ON THE SOUTH

Taft Says It Should Be De-  
batable Ground.

## MOVED BY FERVENT APPEAL

President-elect, in Declining In-  
vitation to Visit Birmingham, Declares  
His Intention of Touring that Sec-  
tion Soon After He Assumes Office.  
Pays Tribute High to Hospitality.

Aurora, Ga., Jan. 2.—President-elect  
William Howard Taft to-day admitted  
that it is one great object of his to  
change the political complexion of the  
South. Not, as he explained, to make it  
Republican in faith, but simply to make  
it, as in certain other sections, "de-  
batable ground on election day."

The speech was one of the most im-  
portant Judge Taft has ever made. It  
was when urged by a delegation from  
Birmingham, Ala., that he reconsider his  
own personal feeling and visit that city  
before he returns to Washington. The  
invitation was delivered by Gen. Rufus  
H. Rhodes, who said:

"We of Birmingham regard the result  
of the last election as a benediction from  
God Almighty himself to the people of  
the South over their own protest."

## Moved by Appeal.

Mr. Taft was plainly moved by the  
fervency of the appeal, but he stuck to  
his original intention and declined the  
invitation. He promised, however, that,  
if possible, he would go to Birmingham  
en route home from Panama. But if  
not, he will surely get there after he is  
inaugurated, he declared.

"Of course, I am touched by your  
earnest words," he said, "as it is an  
evidence among the thoughtful men of  
the Southland, I earnestly hope that the  
South is not to take one political com-  
plexion or another, but that it is to be-  
come a place where politics are, as in  
the rest of the country, a debatable  
proposition. Politics should be here, as  
elsewhere, a subject to compel attention  
of every one."

## Will Visit South.

The President-elect then declared that  
it was his intention to tour the South  
soon after he takes office, visiting all  
of the important cities, and he ranked  
Birmingham as among the first, because  
of its big mining interests. He then said:

"Do not think that I expect a great  
revolution, or a land slide in this polit-  
ical movement, that is very much in vi-  
dence in every section of the South. What  
I welcome is agitation, which means in-  
dependence of action; that is all. If the  
party of which I am a representative  
were to succeed in controlling two or  
three States in the South, it would by no  
means be to the benefit of the party for  
the reason that the solidity of the  
States in the North solid for our party.  
"All I have is the hope that the time is  
approaching when there shall be no  
North, no South, no East, no West, so  
far as politics and subdivisions are con-  
cerned."

## Pays High Tribute.

Mr. Taft then paid high tribute to the  
welcome he has received in the "Heart  
of the South," where he has been visit-  
ing.

Republican National Chairman Hitch-  
cock refused to-night to deny or confirm  
the statement that he has written the  
Republican members of the Oregon legis-  
lature, advising them to violate their  
primary pledges and vote against the  
election of former Gov. Chamberlain,  
Democrat, for United States Senator  
from that State.

## STEAL BABY CARRIAGES.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Jan. 2.—A  
novel plunder was secured this  
morning by burglars who broke  
into the Lehigh Valley Railroad  
station at Avena, there taking  
four baby carriages.

A number of boxes and bun-  
dles were broken open, but ap-  
parently nothing attracted the  
cupidity of the burglars until  
they found the baby carriages.

Special Centerpieces for the New Year's  
Dinner and reception, 41 W. Blackstone.

## THE PRESIDENT'S APPEAL.

The President sent the follow-  
ing dispatch last night to Patrick  
P. McGowan, chairman of the  
American Italian General Relief  
Committee, New York City:

"I earnestly wish success to the  
American Italian General Relief  
Committee in its great work  
meeting at Madison Square Gar-  
den. It is, of course, not possible  
for me to attend in person.

"I am doing everything that  
can be done to get aid to the suf-  
fering, and on account of the ex-  
treme urgency of the case have  
sent two supply ships with \$300,-  
000 worth of food and provisions  
without waiting for the authority  
of Congress, being confident that  
Congress will approve my action."

"I shall also ask Congress for  
additional aid, and throughout  
the coming week will keep in the  
closest touch with Congress, and,  
through the State Department,  
with Italy, so that everything  
possible to be done by the United  
States may be done.

"Furthermore, I have cabled the  
Italian government proffering the  
services of any or all of the bat-  
tle-ship fleet if such can be of  
use in this crisis.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

## GIRL PICKS THIEF'S POCKET

Man Grabbed \$1,700 When Bank  
Teller Was Not Looking.

Young Woman Thereupon Removes  
Greenbacks from His Pocket  
When He's Not Looking.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 2.—Miss Cor-  
nelia Vanstrien, a demure little seven-  
teen-year-old miss, picked a man's pocket  
in one of the leading Grand Rapids banks  
last Wednesday, and thereby made her-  
self a heroine.

Miss Vanstrien was standing in the  
line before the paying teller's window at  
the bank. Just ahead of her was a man  
who presented a check to be cashed.

As the teller turned his head for an  
instant, the girl saw the man reach  
under the bank at the window and re-  
trieve a big roll of greenbacks that the  
teller had carelessly left lying close to  
the wicker. The man hastily shoved the  
roll in his pocket.

Quick as a flash the girl reached in his  
pocket and abstracted the rolls and hid  
them in her muff. The man made his  
way from the bank before the money was  
missed. The girl then made her way  
into the president's office, and handed  
over the roll to him. It was counted  
and found to contain nearly \$1,700.  
The man made good his escape.

## CONSUL LUPTON SAFE.

Swiss Refugee Gives News of Disas-  
ter to Ambassador Griseom.  
The State Department last night re-  
ceived the following dispatch from Am-  
bassador Griseom at Rome:

"A Swiss refugee named Sarauw, a  
merchant of Messina, arrived in Rome to-  
day. He informed me that Lupton  
(vice consul at Messina) escaped unin-  
jured. Sarauw went with Lupton and  
found the remains of our consulate at  
Messina, a three-story house, crumbled  
to the ground.

"It was impossible to search the debris  
thoroughly, but they satisfied themselves  
that Cheney (consul at Messina) and his  
wife must have perished. Sarauw and  
Lupton took refuge on the Standard  
steamer, Chesapeake, and later on a  
British man-of-war. Lupton was alive  
and well when last seen, on December 31.  
Sarauw informs me that he does not  
know of a single native American citi-  
zen residing in Messina.

"The travelers staying in the Hotel  
Trinacria were all saved except the Swed-  
ish and Italian woman who were killed.  
He assures me that Taormina escaped  
uninjured. A number of Americans who  
were there are reported to be doing splen-  
did relief work."

## CHINA FACES CRISIS

Dismissal of Grand Coun-  
cilor Causes Protest.

## MINISTERS ARE IN CONFERENCE

Yuan Shi Kai's Dismissal Looked  
Upon as a Blow at Reform Move-  
ment, and Diplomats May Join in  
Asking that Prince Chun's Edict  
Be Rescinded at Once.

Peking, Jan. 2.—A political crisis, scarce-  
ly less momentous than that which im-  
mediately followed the recent deaths of  
the Emperor and the Empress Dowager,  
has been precipitated by the summary  
dismissal of Yuan Shi Kai, grand coun-  
cilor and head of the Chinese army.

The guise under which Prince Chun,  
the regent, attempted to conceal the ac-  
tion—that of the physical infirmities of  
Yuan—has been thrown aside, and it is  
now all but proved that the former grand  
councilor is a victim of a Manchurian plot.

The situation is so acute that the for-  
eign ministers, including American Min-  
ister Rockhill, have been in almost con-  
stant conference since the edict was pub-  
lished in an effort to agree on a course  
of action.

Realizing that the modernists are likely  
to seize upon the startling development  
to attempt to overthrow the present dy-  
nasty, the ministers are likely to urge  
the rescinding of the edict.

To-day's action, it is now seen, is but  
a development of the anti-Manchu agi-  
tation that followed the elevation of  
Prince Chun to the regency and the in-  
fant Pu Yi to the throne.

This was considered an affront to the  
reform party, which is insisting on the  
re-establishment of a real Chinese dy-  
nasty.

Yuan Shi Kai was allowed to retain his  
position of power only through fear  
that his expulsion at the time of the  
change in administration would seriously  
involve the new regime.

Yuan has been called "China's strong-  
est man." He is in a position to com-  
mand a tremendous following should he  
decide to contest the authority of the  
regent.

The foreign element in the Chinese cap-  
ital is in sympathy with the deposed  
official almost to a man.

## DISMISSAL CAUSES ALARM.

Eclipse of Yuan Shi Kai Looked  
Upon with Forebodings.

Much apprehension exists in Washing-  
ton over the sudden eclipse of Yuan Shi  
Kai in China, whose influence and policies  
simplified the friendly relations of the  
empire with the foreign powers.

His dismissal is interpreted here as the  
sudden ascendancy of the Manchurian  
dynasty and the return of the govern-  
ment to the anti-foreign attitude which  
existed before the Boxer outbreak. Yuan  
was the powerful leader of the pro-  
gressive party, and his going will prob-  
ably mark the beginning of a retrograde  
movement on the part of the government.

He will be succeeded as grand councilor  
by Na Lung, and his downfall means the  
triumph of his most powerful opponent,  
whom he himself first raised to favor,  
Tieh Liang, president of the board of  
war.

HENEY ACCUSES HARRIMAN.  
Declares Ruef and Herrin Were  
Merely His Tools.

Philadelphia, Jan. 2.—"Abe Ruef was  
never the political boss of San Francisco;  
neither was W. F. Herrin, head of the  
legal department of the Southern Pacific.  
Ruef's sponsor, Herrin was a tool; Ruef  
a disabuting agent.

"E. H. Harriman was the boss, the cor-  
rupter, and he played that part be-  
cause he wished to exploit the California  
public for the purpose of achieving his  
own selfish ends," said Francis J. Heney,  
of San Francisco, prosecutor of Ruef,  
concluding a forceful arraignment at the  
City Club to-day just after luncheon. The  
members, who had not yet heard him, al-  
most rose to their feet in their enthusi-  
asm and cheered him.

\$1.25 to Baltimore and Return  
To-day via Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

HEROIC WARFARE  
AGAINST PLAGUENews from Sicily Tells of  
Ceaseless Struggle.

## ROYAL PAIR LEAD WORK

Streets Are Choked by Troops  
and Needed Supplies.

English and American Ambassadors  
Delayed with Anxious Inquiries  
About Relatives, and Mr. Griseom  
Announces that Those in American  
Consulate Were Only Americans.  
Pope Again Subscribes to Fund.

Rome, Jan. 2.—Messages from the  
Calabrian coast and Sicily to-night tell  
one story—a story of heroism and cease-  
less struggle against famine and pesti-  
lence which stalk in the wake of the  
earthquake.

The Italian government, aided by the  
church, by the war ships of foreign  
powers, and the contributions pouring in  
from all parts of the civilized world, is  
doing everything possible to cope with  
conditions.

King Emmanuel wired the premier from  
the heart of the earthquake belt:

"Send Ships! Ships! Ships! Send  
many men, but, above all, send plenty of  
quicklime."

It is plague that the authorities fear  
worst of all. There is only one railroad  
line operating from Naples to the south.  
It is choked by troops and necessary  
supplies. If the wretched survivors are  
saved from the plague, they must be re-  
scued at once.